Appendix I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 97 asked by Sri M. Narayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th January 1950, page 1036 supra.]

97 *Q.*—(*a*) whether many of the villages in the Province become isolated, especially in the rainy season, as they have not even earthen roads to link up to the main roads;

(*b*) whether the Government have under consideration in their road programme to provide every village with a good earthen road to link up to the major road;

(*c*) If so, in what time it is proposed to complete the programme; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Highways Department have not paid any attention to the construction of roads in panchayat and non-panchayat areas?

A.—(*a*) At present many villages in the Province do not have access roads. Information as to how many get isolated in the rainy season is not available.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Post-war Road Development programme drawn up by the Government aims at providing an adequate net work of roads so that every village with a population of 500 people or more is served with a village road such that no such village is more than two miles from a main road in thickly populated areas and five miles in thinly populated areas. The total mileage of new roads proposed to be formed under the comprehensive programme of Post-war Road Development is about 18,000. Out of this, about a length of 9,500 miles is proposed to be formed in the first quinquennium ending 31st March 1952 and the remainder thereafter. These roads are being formed by the District Boards with grants-in-aid from Government and the Highways Department is the engineering agency to execute them. The completion of these programmes (5 years and 25 years) depend on the availability of funds mainly. Apart from the Post-war Road Development Programme, District Boards and the major panchayats have separate village road programmes approved by Government in the case of District Boards and by the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards in the case of panchayats. Half grants are ordinarily sanctioned for works taken up for execution under these programmes and also for approved schemes in the case of minor Panchayat Boards. Works in these programmes are those not included in the Post-war Road Development Programme. The village road programme supplements the Post-war Road Development Programmes.

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As regards villages with a population of less than 500, there is no special provision in the Post-war Road Development Programme for providing them with access roads but quite a good number of them lie on or very close to the roads existing or proposed under the programme. It is anticipated that the present programme will serve nearly 95 per cent of the rural population.

(*d*) No distinction is made between panchayat and non-panchayat areas in regard to provision of roads. As stated in the answer to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) the Post-war Road Development Programme aims at providing an adequate net work of roads so that every village with a population of 500 and more is served with a village road to connect with the nearest main road. The formation of further roads, streets and lanes, etc., required in each village is not contemplated in the Post-war Road Plan. These are to be formed by the Panchayat Boards in panchayat areas and by District Boards in non-panchayat areas. The Highways Department has to prepare plans and estimates for the works, if required by the Panchayat Board or the District Board. In the case of the District Boards, the Highways Department will execute them but in the case of Panchayat Board works, the Panchayat Board ordinarily executes them through contractors and the Highways Department only checkmeasures the work. Where however technical supervision is required the Highways Department executes them or supervises them. The employment of special staff for preparing plans and estimates for Panchayat Board works and for supervising their execution is being sanctioned wherever necessary.

TRUTH ALONE TRIUMPHS

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 100 asked by Sri M. Narayana Rao at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 10th January 1950, page 1038 supra.]

INSPECTION REPORTS OF SRI G. RAMACHANDRAN, M.L.A., ON THE FIRKA DEVELOPMENT WORK IN CERTAIN FIRKAS AND CENTRES.

Letter from Sri G. RAMACHANDRAN, Secretary, A.I.V.I.A. (Wardha), to the Provincial Firka Development Officer, Madras, dated camp Madras, the 18th May 1949.

Herewith is a brief interim report from me on Firka Development work as I have studied it in four typical firkas. Due to my own other engagments it has not been possible yet for me to cover any other firka. In these four firkas I visited 43